the Corporation on account of issue of rice from lower group as higher group or *vice-versa* since the same is adjusted in the amount of subsidy being given by the Government to the Corporation. The FCI has decided to issue the stocks of rice to the PDS only after the receipt of despatch documents by the consignees instead of issuing on the basis of spot findings of the Committee of Officers nominated for the purpose. This would create a little inconvenience to the consumers in places where smaller capacity godowns are located.

Egg Consumption

536. SHRI M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether efforts have been made to popularise benefits of egg consumption in rural areas especially in North Andhra and Orissa to find market for the excess production thereof; and

(b) if so, the details thereof

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (b) Some organisations like National egg coordination committee have been attempting to popularise the benefits of egg consumption in the country through various mass communication medias.

[Translation]

Allocation of Wheat

537. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY
SHRI D.P. YADAV :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state

(a) whether the State Government have demanded for increasing the allocation of wheat under the Public Distribution System keeping in view the current price rise.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir. Some State Governments have requested for increasing the allocation of wheat for PDS.

(b) A statement showing the monthly quota of wheat demanded by some of the State Govts for PDS (including RPDS), and the monthly allocation of wheat made to them during the period Nov. 96 to March, 97 is enclosed.

(c) The allocation of foodgrains to States/UTs for PDS (including PRDS) is made on a month to month basis, taking into consideration, inter-alia, the demand received from various States/UTs, their relative needs, off-take trend, stock position in the Central Pool, seasonal availability etc. The allocations so made from the Central Pool are supplemental to the open market availability, and not intended to meet the full demand of any State.

Statement

Demand and allotment during Nov. 96 to March, 97 to the States/UTs regarding allocation of wheat

(In '000 Tonnes)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Deman per month	Quota		Allotted		
			Nov., 96	Dec., 96	Jan., 97	Feb., 97	March, 97
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Delhi	72.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	65.00	65.00
2.	Haryana	35.00	16.56	18.56	18.56	18.56	20.00
3.	Himachal Pradesh	18.00	10.00	10.00	12.00	12.00	12.00
4.	Karnataka	50.00	28.00	28.00	30.00	30.00	30.00
5.	Madhya Pradesh	100.00	44.00	50.00	50.00	60.00	65.00
6.	Maharashtra	120.00	80.00	80.00	90.00	100.00	100.00
7.	Manipur	7.00	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.70
8.	Mizoram	2.50	1.90	1.90	1.90	1.90	1.90
9.	Punjab	17.00	8.00	10.00	12.00	15.00	20.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10.	Rajasthan	185.00	118.00	117.00	122.00	127.00	130.00
11.	Sikkim	1.10	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60
12.	Uttar Pradesh	109.20	80.00	90.00	98.30	113.80	103.80
13.	West Bengal	120.00	90.00	90.00	105.00	110.00	110.00

Regularisation of Forest Land

538. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has sent any survey report in regard to the encroached forest land for regulatisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) No proposal from the Government of Uttar Pradesh has been received so far for regularisation of encroachment on forest land.

[English]

Protection of endangered species

539. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) The comparative figures of population of each of the endangered species as per the census figures of the last three censuses;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the collusion of poachers with forest guards and police personnel is threatening the survival of endangered species in the country;

(c) if so, whether the Government have propose to take any strict action/laws to curb such activities to protect the forests and issue guidelines to the State Government to follow; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) The comparative figures of last three censuses of major endangered species are given below :

S. No.	Name of Species	Year 1984	1989	1993
1.	Tiger	4005	4334	3759
2.	Lowpard	4744	6763	6828
3.	Elephat	18960 (1985)	17635 Min. to 24090 Max.	22796 Min. to 28346 Max.
4.	Rhinos	N.A.	1591	1566 (1995)
5.	Lion	239 (1985)	284 (1990)	304 (1995)

(b) No case of collusion of officials with poachers has been reported.

(c) and (d) A number of steps are being taken to protect endangered species. These include: Providing legal protection against hunting and commercial exploitation under the wildliife (Protection) Act, 1972; providing assistance to the States for development of national parks and sanctuaries; implementing special projects for endangered species such as tiger, elephants, rhino etc; controlling poaching and illegal trade of wildlife through interdepartmental co-ordination and providing antipoaching infrastructure in specified areas. Besides, amendment of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Indian Forest Act. 1927 has been taken on hand to make the penal provisions of these Acts more stringent.

Strike Force for Project Tiger

540. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up a Mobile Strike Force equipped with wireless sets, guns, motorcycles and jeeps for protecting the endangered tigers in the tiger reserves of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government for the welfare of the staff posted in these tiger reserves ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN